



**City of Blairsville, GA**  
**Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting**  
**December 7, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.**  
**Blairsville City Hall**  
**62 Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville, GA 30512**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Mayor Jim Conley  
Councilmember Rhonda Mahan  
Councilmember Robert Moore  
Councilmember Tony Dyer  
Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook  
Councilmember Kayla Hemphill

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Kay Wilcox, City Hall  
Michael Baxter, Police Dept  
Jody Cook, WWTP  
Aaron Mannheim, Airport

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

David Barrett, City Attorney  
Mark Smith, North Georgia News  
Steve Rowe, BUCCC President  
David Dyer, UC Fire Chief  
Mitch Griggs, UC Development Authority  
Marvin Harkins  
Pat Malone  
Laurie Brothers

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** Invocation was led by City Attorney David Barrett and pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Robert Moore.

**Call Meeting to Order:** Mayor Conley called the meeting to order 6:02 p.m.

**Approve Proposed Agenda:** Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote to approve the proposed agenda.

**Dispense reading and approve minutes:**

1. Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to dispense reading of and approve minutes from the 11/9/2021 regular council meeting.

**Public Hearing:**

2. Mayor Conley called public hearing and 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance No. 2021-04 to amend the Water/Sewer Ordinance to include sewer only service. With no public comment and no comment from the Council, Mayor Conley closed public hearing.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Unfinished Business:**

3. Mayor Conley presented the councilmembers with the resume of Mr. Marvin Harkins. Mr. Harkins introduced himself and discussed his prior experience. He stated his interest in serving as the City Attorney for the City of Blairsville.

Discussion regarding the need to change the City's regularly scheduled monthly council meeting from the first Tuesday of each month to the second Tuesday of each month, as Mr. Harkins has a conflict with the current meeting date.

Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to retain Mr. Harkins to serve as City Attorney beginning January 1, 2022 and to move the regularly scheduled monthly meetings to the second Tuesday of each month, with the exception of the organizational meeting that is set by City Charter for the first Tuesday in January.

**New Business:**

4. Union County Sheriff Mack Mason was on the agenda but was not present.
5. Steve Rowe, BUCCC President, reported having 700 participants for Holly Jolly Christmas on 12/4 as well as

continuing and upcoming events for December and January, including the Chambers Award Night on 1/20/2022, which will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chamber.

6. Michael Baxter discussed current status and needs of the Police Department. A motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to purchase a new 2022 Ford Explorer for \$32,600 from King Ford plus the additional cost to outfit the new car with lights and equipment and to trade in the 2021 Ford Explorer driven by Seth Dyer for a 2022 Explorer for \$1,500 to King Ford plus additional cost to move the lights and equipment from the current car to the new one.

Aaron Mannheim stated that airport personnel are waiting on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to certify the newly purchased and installed PAPI lights before they can be activated.

Jody Cook discussed problems with the current decant valve and future delivery of a replacement that has been ordered.

7. Mayor Conley presented the list of businesses renewing alcohol licenses for 2022. A motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve the issuance of the licenses.
8. A motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve the hiring of James Zdan as a part-time airport operator. \$15/hour
9. The Intergovernmental Agreement with Coosa Water Authority was tabled until such time as the City Attorney reviews the relevant documents.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

10. A motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to approve the Occupational Tax Certificate Application and Sign Permit for Safe Pet Project Thrift Store at 307 Cleveland Street, Suites O and P.

#### **Executive Session:**

11. Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a roll call - Councilmember Rhonda Mahan-here; Councilmember Kayla Hemphill-here; Councilmember Tony Dyer-here; Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook-here; Councilmember Robert Moore-here - to enter executive session for matters related to personnel.
12. Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a roll call - Councilmember Rhonda Mahan-here; Councilmember Kayla Hemphill-here; Councilmember Tony Dyer-here; Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook-here; Councilmember Robert Moore-here - to exit executive session.  
**Exhibit A**

#### **Additional Business:**

13. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to increase all employees pay rates by 5% effective 12/15/2021 pay period.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to begin paying \$30 per month per full-time police officer to the Peace Officers' Annuity & Benefit Fund.

Motion made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to pay a \$1.00 per hour shift differential to the officer(s) assigned to work the 6:00 pm to 6:00 am shift.

Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote to increase Jason Helton's hourly rate by \$1.00 per hour when he completes his probationary period 1/1/2022.

**Adjournment:**

Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to adjourn. 7:08 pm

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Kaye McCann, City Clerk

Transcribed by Kay Wilcox, Accounting Clerk

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Approved by City Council